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TIM

COMMENTATOR CRITICAL OF MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON COLBY OF CIA

ANNOUNCER: This is IPI Radio. Today's commentary on world affairs is by Fred Bramptman, co-director of the Indo-China Resource Center.
BRAMPTMAN

FRED BRAMPTMAN: Parade Magazine on July 21st, 1974, ran a cover portrait of the smiling William Colby, our present director of the Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA. Inside, Parade described Colby as a, quote, pillar in the community affairs, a good and understanding father to his four surviving children, a loving and dutiful husband, unquote.

Describing Colby as, quote, the shining light of the intelligence community, unquote, Parade stressed his patriotism, openness and courage. For many of us who have lived in Indo-China, however, this Parade piece was a singularly frightening example of the CIA's ability to manipulate public opinion and re-write history.

We old Indo-China hands, you see, have not forgotten that Mr. Colby was the chief architect of Operation Phoenix in South Viet Nam from 1968 to 1971. Under Operation Phoenix, Mr. Colby's office set quotas on the number of Vietnamese to be killed or arrested every month. Those who were killed had no chance, of course, to plead their innocence; those who were arrested, even they were not allowed a lawyer.

Given such quotas on killing Vietnamese, it is perhaps not surprising that Mr. Colby testified before Congress in July, 1971, that his Operation Phoenix had killed 20,567 civilians in three years. One of Mr. Colby's own agents, G. Barton Osborne (?), stated to Congress that, quote, Phoenix became a sterile, depersonalized murder program. I never knew an individual to live through an interrogation in a year and a half, and that included quite a number of individuals.

Given such a record and much more, it may be true